

CONFIDENTIAL

6 June 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief [CI/IS]

SUBJECT : Request for Study of Edgar LAIPENIEKS' File

1. The complete and accurate facts regarding this case are as follows:

a. On 5 or 6 May 1975 [ ] of SE brought the four-volume 201 file on Edgar LAIPENIEKS to me in [ ] (i.e., his supervisor's) name and asked me to study it in light of my previous association with Baltic operations and my knowledge of the problems which are involved or might arise. (LAIPENIEKS, formerly a Latvian national, is being accused by the Soviets of murdering persons of the Jewish faith during World War II and has appealed to the Agency for help in connection with a Soviet request for deportation. Several years ago he was used by [SE Division] operationally.)

b. I told [ ] that I am under instructions from [ ] to complete certain work and would be able to do nothing regarding this file for a number of weeks. Moreover, I would not be able to do this work without authorization from [ ]. [ ] said he would relay this request to [ ]. He also said that he and [ ] could not understand the reason for designating this matter as an FOIA case, because this man was actually asking us for help regarding his deportation, a matter now pending before the Immigration and Naturalization Service. I agreed and said that in light of this consideration the case need not be handled on a priority FOIA basis. I also explained to [ ] that there are a number of identical cases pending before I&NS and that some of those cases had not been adjudicated for as long as 10 years.

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c. On the following day, [ ] called me and told me that [ ] had obtained approval from [ ] for me to work on this case after I had finished my priorities for [ ]

2. As a result I have done nothing further on this case and will be unable to work on it until the latter part of this month. At that time I fully intend to dig into the file and see what, if anything, can be done to help this man who has been of operational assistance to the Agency in the past. I heard nothing further about this case until I received your speed letter yesterday. According to our telephone conversation of yesterday, you will attempt to write a statement acknowledging receipt of LAIPENIEKS request and advising him that we are studying his request and will let him know our determination. I urge that the phrasing of this particular passage in a letter to LAIPENIEKS be worded very cautiously, because the letter may become involved in public court proceedings and his previous involvement with the Agency could become a serious disadvantage to him, particularly if he is deported to the USSR.

3. As I said before, I cannot see how I can get to work on this case before the latter part of this month, unless [ ] cancels some of the priorities he has assigned to me. To do the job right, I feel I will need three to five working days.

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